

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJ: HIGHLIGHTS WEEKEND POLITICAL CAMPAIGN

1. SUMMARY: WEEKEND CAMPAIGN WITNESSED PM CARAMANLIS
(NEW DEMOCRACY) PLEDGING TAX REFORM IN PATRAS, MAVROS (CU/NF
REVIEWING CYPRUS SITUATION IN CRETE, PAPANDREOU (PASOK)
CHARGING NEW DEMOCRACY AND CU/NF REPRESENTED SINGLE ESTABLISHMENT
FORCE AND GAROUFALIAS (EDE), THROUGH PRESS RELEASE, ANTICIPATING
ANNOUNCEMENT OF A CYPRUS SOLUTION ON DAY BEFORE ELECTIONS.
MONARCHY QUESTION BROUGHT AN EXCHANGE OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS
BY CARAMANLIS AND MAVROS WHILE PAPANDREOU CLAIMED GREEK
RIGHT LAYING TRAP ON MONARCHY. ONE ND SUPPORTER WAS
INJURED WHEN PASOK YOUGH ATTACKED BUSLOADS RETURNING TO
ATHENS FROM PATRAS RALLY. END SUMMARY.

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2. IN VOTE-GETTING GESTURE AS OLD AS PERICLEAN POLITICS, CARAMANLIS ANNOUNCED TO MASS RALLY IN PATRAS NOVEMBER 10 TAX REFORMS, INCLUDING REDUCTION OF TAXES FOR LOWER INCOME GROUPS. HE PLEDGED SALARIES AND WAGE POLICY TO INCREASE INCOMES GRADUALLY AND ENDORSED FREE ECONOMY. HE ATTACKED ND OPPONENTS FOR DEMAGOGY AND IN INDIRECT SWIPE AT PASOK CLAIMED GREECE HAS WEAKNESS FOR ATTACHING ITSELF TO ANYTHING NEW AS EVIDENCED BY HIS ADVERSARIES COMPETING IN "SOCIALIST BIDS," WHICH IF IMPLEMENTED WOULD RUIN NATIONAL ECONOMY. GEORGE MAVROS, CU/NF, DEVOTED MAJOR SPEECH IN HERAKLION, CRETE TO CYPRUS. MAVROS ASSERTED UNGA RESOLUTION VINDICATED GREEK POSITION BUT DID NOT SOLVE ISSUE. HE ANTICIPATED RETURN TO CYPRUS OF ITS LAWFUL PRESIDENT AND STRESSED CU/NF'S RESOLVE TO PROMOTE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. MAVROS PREVIOUS DAY IN NORTHERN GREECE TOUR TOLD FARMERS AND OTHERS THAT CU/NF STOOD FOR INCREASING AGRARIAN PENSIONS, MEDICAL CARE, IMPROVED IRRIGATION, UP-TO-DATE HOUSING, MODERN AGRARIAN MARKETING CENTERS, BETTER PASTURES AND NEW INDUSTRIES. PAPANDREOU (PASOK) IN RALLIES IN LARISSA, TRIKALA AND KARDITSA WARNED AGAINST RIGHTIST TRAP TO RESTORE MONARCHY AND CHARGED THAT NEW DEMOCRACY AND CU/NF FAVORED GRANTING AMNESTY TO DICTATORSHIP LEADERS, PARTIAL ELECTORAL LAW, AND UNNECESSARILY ACCELERATED ELECTION SCHEDULE. UNITED LEFT CANDIDATE DRACOPOULOS (KKE INTERIOR) TOLD LARISSA AUDIENCE THAT HIS MOVEMENT'S PRIMARY PURPOSE WAS TO DESTROY MILITARY RULE AND FASCISM AND TO PAVE WAY FOR SOCIALISM. UNITED LEFT FAVORED PROGRESSIVE CONSTITUTION WITH PARLIAMENT OF BROAD POWERS AND NOT CABINET WITH "SUPER PRESIDENTS AND SUPER PRIME MINISTERS." FAR RIGHT GAROUFALIAS' NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC UNION WAS RELATIVELY QUIET OVER WEEKEND EXCEPT FOR PRESS STATEMENT IN WHICH GAROUFALIAS LAMENTED THAT GREECE HAS BECOME LAUGHING STOCK OF WORLD AS RESULT OF GOG'S MISTAKES IN DIPLOMACY WHICH WILL BECOME APPARENT ON DAY BEFORE ELECTIONS WHEN CARAMANLIS WOULD REVEAL CYPRUS SOLUTION IN WHICH GREECE CAME TO TERMS WITH TURKEY. HE DEPLORED PURGING OPERATION UNDERWAY WHICH THREATENS ALL NATIONALISTS AND SCORNEED LEGALIZATION OF COMMUNIST PARTY WHICH PLACED "CRIMINALS OF DECEMBER 1944 IN LEADING POSITIONS" IN GREECE.

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3. MONARCHY QUESTION MOVED TO FORE OVER WEEKEND WHEN CARAMANLIS PICKED UP GUANTLET THROWN BY PAPANDREOU AND MAVROS. (PAPANDREOU HAS CONSISTENTLY CLAIMED THAT MONARCHY HAS NO PLACE IN MODERN GREECE AND THAT GOG HAS SET TRAP SINCE NEW PARLIAMENT WILL HAVE RESPONSIBILITY OF FORMULATING CONSTITUTION BEFORE NATURE OF REGIME DECIDED.) PAPANDREOU SPECULATED IN WEEKEND

SPEECH THAT NEW PARLIAMENT COULD CANCEL PLEBISCITE ON KING WHICH COULD MEAN "THAT EVERY VOTE FOR CARAMANLIS COULD BE VOTE FOR CONSTANTINE." HE ADDED THAT MAVROS IS AS GUILTY AS CARAMANLIS FOR CO-SIGNING OCTOBER CONSTITUENT ACT PROVIDING FOR REFERENDUM. (MAVROS LAST WEEK CALLED ON ALL CANDIDATES TO DECLARE STAND ON KING'S RETURN SINCE NEW PARLIAMENT'S FIRST TASK WOULD BE SHAPING FORM OF NEW CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.) ON NOVEMBER 9 MAVROS ISSUED STATEMENT NOTING THAT IF PEOPLE DECIDE FOR REPUBLIC, PARLIAMENT WILL THEN HAVE RESPONSIBILITY OF DETERMINING FORM OF PRESIDENTIAL REPUBLIC. CARAMANLIS REITERATED ND STANDARD POSITION THAT GREEK PEOPLE SHOULD DECIDE ON FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN REFERENDUM AND REMINDED MAVROS THAT HE TOO HAD SIGNED CONSTITUENT ACT PROVIDING FOR PLEBISCITE. CARAMANLIS ADDED THAT PARLIAMENT TO BE ELECTED NOVEMBER 17 WILL BE "REVISIONARY" AND WILL HAVE POWER TO REFORM FREELY GREEK CONSTITUTION. HE CONCLUDED THAT ND WILL ABIDE BY PROCEDURE ESTABLISHED BY CONSTITUENT ACT.

4. AKROPOLIS PUBLISHED FIRST UNOFFICIAL POLL RESULTS OVER WEEKEND. IT IDENTIFIED POLLING INSTITUTION ONLY AS RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION WHOSE FINDINGS (SIC) AS OF NOVEMBER 7 ANTICIPATE ND-39.5 PERCENT, CU/NF - 21.7 PERCENT, PASOK 12.9PERCENT, UNITED LEFT

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5.7 PERCENT AND UNDECIDED - 12.2 PERCENT. SURVEY WAS DONDUCTED IN ATHENS-PIRAEUS AREA WHICH, WITH HEAVY URBAN POPULATION, REDUCES VALIDITY AS NATIONWIDE PROGNOSIS.

5. FIRST CAMPAIGN VIOLENCE OCCURRED NOVEMBER 10 WHEN YOUNG PASOK SUPPORTERS IN CORINTH AND KIATOS PELTED WITH ROCK S AND WOODEN BARS BUSLOADS OF ND ENTHUSIASTS RETURNING FROM CARAMANLIS RALLY IN PATRAS. ONE WOMAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAS REPORTED INJURED.

6. UNITED LEFT IS EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES WITHIN COALITION WHERE INDIVIDUAL FACTIONS ARE COUNSELING VOTERS TO PUT CROSSES ONLY FOR ITS CANDIDATES. COMMUNIST PRESS HAS HIGHLIGHTED INJUSTICE OF DETERMINATION THAT UNITED LEFT REPRESENTS COALITION OF THREE PARTIES AND THUS MUST OBTAIN 30 PERCENT OF TOTAL VOTE TO QUALIFY FOR SECOND AND THIRD DISTRIBUTION OF VOTES. AVGHI BOASTS THAT LEFT ENJOYES SUPPORT FROM MORE THAN 30 PERCENT OF VOTERS BUT ASSERTS CIRCUMSANCES AND LEGAL PROVISIONS WILL PREVENT FULL EXPRESSION OF SUCH SUPPORT.
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